**THE CLAIMS:**

The claims in the instant application are set forth below.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for controlling user spending of a user purchasing television programs in a television apparatus, comprising the steps of:

detecting a first user request;

providing a plurality of selectively actuatable entries for ~~single~~-user spending limits each entry ~~spending limit~~ being associated with a different-length time period, in response to the first user request;

receiving user selection of at least one of the plurality of selectively actuatable entries and a spending limit for the selected at least one of the plurality of selectively actuatable entries;

tracking a second user request to purchase a ~~spending on purchasing~~ television program~~s~~ during the time period associated with each selected entry; and

notifying the user in response to the second user request, ~~when~~ if purchasing ~~a~~ the requested television program would exceed the spending limit during the time period for any selected entry.

2. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of providing a selection for a rolling time period.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, wherein the notifying step comprises the step of generating a user warning.

4. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of allowing the user to override the user spending limit.

5. (CANCELLED)

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of performing a check to see if a spending limit for a shorter time period is greater than a spending limit entry for a longer time period; and providing the user warning if the spending limit for the shorter time period is greater.

7-10. (CANCELLED)

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system for controlling user spending of a user purchasing television programs, comprising:

a user controller for entering a first user request; and

a television apparatus comprising

means for providing a plurality of selectively actuatable entries for ~~single~~ user spending limits each entry ~~spending limit~~ being associated with a different-length time period, in response to the first user request;

means for receiving user selection of at least one of the plurality of selectively actuatable entries and a spending limit for the selected at least one of the plurality of selectively actuatable entries;

means for tracking a second user request to purchase a television program ~~spending~~ during the time period associated with each selected entry; and

means for notifying the user in response to the second user request, ~~when~~ if purchasing ~~a~~ the requested television program would exceed the spending limit during the time period for any selected entry.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A television apparatus for controlling user spending of a user purchasing television programs, comprising:

a user interface for receiving a first user request;

means for providing a plurality of spending limit entries for a single user each entry corresponding to a different time period, in response to the first user request;

means for receiving user selection of and a spending limit for at least one of the spending limit entries;

means for tracking a second user request to purchase a television program ~~spending~~ during each different time period for which a spending limit was received; and

means for notifying the user in response to the second user request, ~~when~~ if purchasing ~~a~~ the requested television program would exceed the spending limit during the time period for any selected entry.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The television apparatus of claim 12, wherein the receiving means performs a check to see if a spending limit for a shorter time period is greater than a spending limit entry for a longer time period; and provides the user warning if the spending limit for the shorter time period is greater.